INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Indigenous peoples in Brazil ([Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language): povos indígenas no Brasil), or Native Brazilians ([Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language): nativos brasileiros), comprise a large number of distinct [ethnic groups](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_groups) who have inhabited what is now the country of [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil) since prior to the [European](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) exploration around 1500.

The indigenous population was largely killed off by European diseases, declining from a pre-Columbian high of millions to some 300,000 (1997), grouped into some 200 tribes. However, the number could be much higher if the urban indigenous populations are counted in all the Brazilian cities today.

Since the 1980s there has been a boom in the exploitation of the Amazon Rainforest for mining, logging and cattle ranching, posing a severe threat to the region's indigenous population. Settlers illegally encroaching on indigenous land continue to destroy the environment necessary for indigenous peoples' traditional ways of life, provoke violent confrontations and spread disease.

The [1988 Brazilian Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Brazil) recognises indigenous peoples' right to pursue their traditional ways of life and to the permanent and exclusive possession of their "traditional lands", which are demarcated as [Indigenous Territories](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_Territory).

CARNIVAL

Carnival is the most famous holiday in Brazil and has become an event of huge proportions.

The country unifies completely for almost a week and festivities are intense, day and night, mainly in coastal cities. Rio de Janeiro's carnival alone atracts more than 5 million people, with 500,000 being foreigners.

Rhythm, participation, and costumes vary from one region of Brazil to another. In the southeastern cities of [Rio de Janeiro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro), [São Paulo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Paulo) and [Vitória](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vit%C3%B3ria,_Esp%C3%ADrito_Santo), huge organized parades are led by [samba schools](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samba_school). Those official parades are meant to be watched by the public, while minor parades ("blocos") allowing public participation can be found in other cities.

The typical genres of music of Brazilian carnival is the [samba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samba-enredo)

Rio de Janeiro style originally mimicked the European form of the festival, later absorbing elements derived from Native American and African cultures.

AMAZON RAINFOREST

The Amazon rainforest, also known in English as Amazonia or the Amazon [Jungle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jungle), is a [moist broadleaf forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_and_subtropical_moist_broadleaf_forests) that covers most of the [Amazon basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_basin) of South America. This basin encompasses 7,000,000 square kilometres (2,700,000 sq mi), of which 5,500,000 square kilometres (2,100,000 sq mi) are covered by the rainforest. This region includes territory belonging to nine nations. The majority of the forest is contained [within Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Amazon), with 60% of the rainforest, followed by [Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peruvian_Amazon) with 13%, [Colombia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Region_of_Colombia) with 10%, and with minor amounts in [Venezuela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela), Ecuador, [Bolivia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolivia), Guyana, [Suriname](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suriname) and [French Guiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Guiana).

Wet tropical forests are the most species-rich [biome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biome), and tropical forests in the Americas are consistently more species rich than the wet forests in Africa and Asia. As the largest tract of tropical rainforest in the Americas, the Amazonian rainforests have unparalleled [biodiversity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity). One in ten known species in the world lives in the Amazon rainforest. This constitutes the largest collection of living plants and animal species in the world.

The region is home to about 2.5 million [insect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_insects) [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species), tens of thousands of plants, and some 2,000 birds and [mammals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mammal). To date, at least 40,000 plant species, 2,200 [fishes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neotropical_fishes), 1,294 birds, 427 mammals, 428 amphibians, and 378 reptiles have been scientifically classified in the region. One in five of all the bird species in the world live in the rainforests of the Amazon, and one in five of the fish species live in Amazonian rivers and streams. Scientists have described between 96,660 and 128,843 [invertebrate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invertebrate) species in Brazil alone.

Deforestation is a huge problem. [Deforestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation) is the conversion of forested areas to non-forested areas. The main sources of deforestation in the Amazon are human settlement.

Between 1991 and 2000, the total area of forest lost in the Amazon rose from 415,000 to 587,000 square kilometers (160,000 to 227,000 sq mi), with most of the lost forest becoming pasture for cattle.

Also there are many controversial transportation projects that are currently developing in the Amazon. The first two highways successfully opened up the rainforest and led to increased settlement and deforestation.

Hopefully, deforestation has declined significantly in the Brazilian Amazon since 2004.